

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 AID-05

FDRE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /077 W

----- 119256

P 221255Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5703

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5454

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON FROM
AMCONSUL CAN THO 22 APR 75 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION. QUOTE.

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0241

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: REACTION TO PRESIDENT THIEU'S RESIGNATION

1. INITIAL REACTION TO NEWS OF PRESIDENT THIEU'S RESIGNATION
APPEARS TO BE FAINT BUT AUDIBLE SIGH OF RELIEF AND VAGUE HOPE
THAT DIALOGUE MAY NOW BE OPENED WITH COMMUNISTS TO STOP THE WAR.
MAJORITY OF GENERAL POPULACE EXPRESS VIEW THAT THIEU'S
DEPARTURE WAS FORGONE CONCLUSION AND ONLY A MATTER OF TIMING.
THEY NOW CLAIM TO BELIEVE THAT THIEU WAS PRIMARY OBSTACLE
BOTH TO NEGOTIATION WITH COMMUNISTS AND TO CONTINUED UNITED STATES
SUPPORT, AND ARE HOPEFUL OF IMPROVEMENT IN SITUATION. SOME SAY
COMMUNISTS WILL REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE DESPITE THIEU'S RESIGNATION,
BUT THAT THEIR REFUSAL WILL AT LEAST PROVE TO WORLD THEIR TRUE
INTENTIONS. A MINORITY EXPRESS SYMPATHY FOR THIEU, NOTING STRONG
DELIVERY OF HIS SPEECH AND APPARENT INFERENCE THAT HE HAD BEEN
"DONE IN" BY HIS AMERICAN ALLIES. EVERYONE WITH WHOM WE HAVE
TALKED BELIEVES PRESIDENT HUONG TO BE AN HONEST PATRIOT,
BUT TOO OLD TO BE AN EFFECTIVE LEADER.

2. RESIGNATION AND SPEECH HAVE BECOME PRIMARY TOPICS OF CONVERSATION
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AMONG MILITARY. SPEECH ITSELF WAS NOT WELL RECEIVED, WITH MOST

MILITARY SAYING THIEU RAMBLED WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONCISE. SOME ALSO FEAR THAT HIS BLAST AT USG MAY MAKE CHANCE OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE EVEN LESS LIKELY. DISCUSSION OF RESIGNATION CENTERS ON WHETHER OR NOT IT CAME TOO LATE. A FEW SENIOR ARVN OFFICERS HAVE TOLD US IT IS TOO LATE, THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE NO NEED TO NEGOTIATE NOW AND WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THEIR ATTACKS. OTHERS APPEAR TO HOPE THAT POLITICAL SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE NOW THAT THIEU GONE. THERE ARE AS YET NO SIGNS OF EFFECT ON MORALE OR DETERMINATION TO FIGHT.

3. LOCAL OPPOSITIONIST POLITICOS APPEAR TO BE GLOATING OVER FULFILLMENT OF THEIR PROPHECIES SAYING THIEU HAD TO GO BECAUSE HE WAS CORRUPT, INEFFECTIVE, ETC. NONE APPEAR TO BE GIVING MUCH THOUGHT TO WHAT MAY TRANSPIRE FOLLOWING RESIGNATION. SIGNED MCNAMARA. UNQUOTE.
MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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